BOROUGH OF BUCKINGHAM

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1964

1964
BOROUGH OF BUCKINGHAM

Mayor :
COUNCILLOR J. EDMONDS

Deputy Mayor :
ALDERMAN F. E. Y. FLEET

Public Health Committee :

(*Full Council*)

Chairman : Councillor T. Lambourne

Alderman H. E. Cornwall
,, A. E. Busby
Coun. J. M. Cornwall
,, H. Adams
,, M. C. Jarman
,, Mrs. D. J. Elkerton
,, Mrs. E. D. Embleton
Alderman S. G. Williams
Coun. C. G. Hardy
,, T. E. Holton
,, A. G. F. Marriott
,, J. A. B. Gilchrist
,, A. Wilkins

Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health :

D. H. WALDRON, O.B.E., M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H. Col. I.M.S. (Rtd.) (The Medical Officer of Health is also M.O.H. for Buckingham R.D.C., Bletchley U.D.C., Winslow R.D.C., Newport Pagnell U.D.C., Newport Pagnell R.D.C., and Wolverton U.D.C., and Divisional School M.O. for North Bucks and Buckingham and Winslow District and Area Medical Officer for North Bucks.).

Deputy Medical Officer of Health :
R. M. LASLETT, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Health Inspector :
R. TAYLOR, M.S.I.A. Telephone : Buckingham 2295

Secretary :
MISS J. HOWLETT.

BOROUGH OF BUCKINGHAM

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Castle House,
West Street,
Buckingham,
17*th May*, 1965.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1964.

The Birth Rate shows a slight drop from last year, but still compares favourably with that for the County and is higher than the National Rate.

The Death Rate shows a slight rise on 1963 but even so is lower than that for the County, and is more than 3 points lower than the National Rate. Of the total of 38 deaths, Heart and Allied Diseases and Cancer accounted for 29.

The Infantile Mortality Rate shows a satisfactory drop from the previous year. There was just one death in this group.

Once again I want to record my thanks to your Town Clerk, Mr. Archdeacon, your Borough Surveyor and Public Health Officer, Mr. Rennie Taylor, and their staffs for their helpful co-operation during the year.

I regret that this will be my last Annual Report to you Sir, and your Council, as I retire very shortly. Since my first Report to you in 1947 I have received the most kind and courteous treatment from you, and for this I am very grateful. I should like to congratulate the Council on the great interest it has always shown in the health and welfare of the District.

I am,
Your obedient servant,
Daniel H. Waldron.

A. Vital Statistics

			1964	1963
Area (in acres)			5,367	5,367
Population			4,740	4,530
Number of Inhabited Houses			1,625	1,694
Rateable Value			£209,018	£200,398
Rate per £1			9/4	9/4
Sum represented by a Penny Rate ...			£822	£776
BIRTHS :	M.	F.		
Legitimate	32	50	82	81
Illegitimate	1	1	2	5
Birth rate per 1,000 population			18.9	20.1
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, (Bucks.)			20.1	19.2
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, (England) and Wales			18.4	18.2
Still Births			2	Nil
	M.	F.		
DEATHS	22	16	38	34
Death rate per 1,000 population			8.0	7.5
,, ,, ,, (Bucks.) ...			8.7	9.9
,, ,, ,, (England & Wales) ...			11.3	12.2
Maternal Mortality Rate			Nil	Nil
,, ,, ,, (Bucks.) ...			0.37	0.30
INFANTILE MORTALITY :				
Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 live births			11.9	23.3
,, ,, (Bucks.)			16.7	17.7
,, ,, (England & Wales)			20.0	20.9

Principal Causes of Death :	1964			1963		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Respiratory Tuberculosis ...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Tuberculosis	0	0	0	0	0	0
Influenza	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cancer	4	4	8	5	3	8
Diabetes	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cerebral Haemorrhage ...	2	6	8	0	2	2
Heart Disease	11	2	13	5	3	8
Other Diseases of Circulatory Systems	0	0	0	1	2	3
Bronchitis	1	1	2	0	1	1
Pneumonia	1	1	2	1	1	2
Digestive Diseases	0	0	0	0	0	0
Congenital Causes	1	0	1	1	0	1
Nephritis	0	1	1	0	0	0
Accidents	0	0	0	1	0	1
All other Causes	2	1	3	4	4	8
Totals	22	16	38	18	16	34

B. General Provision of Health Services

1. Laboratory Facilities.

Specimens for pathological investigation were sent, as in previous years, to the laboratory at Oxford. The arrangement was satisfactory. Samples for chemical analysis have to be sent to the County Analyst.

2. Ambulance Services.

These are administered direct from the County Health Department, Aylesbury. One Dual Purpose car was stationed in Buckingham, and supplemented when necessary with ambulances from Bletchley. All vehicles are radio controlled. I understand that the County Council has planned for an Ambulance Station to cover the area to be located at Maids Moreton.

3. Nursing in the Home.

The District Nurses as always carried out their excellent work.

4. Clinical and Treatment Centres.

(a) Maternity and Child Welfare Centre.—A Centre at the Congregational Chapel Hall has held bi-monthly sessions with the Medical Officer in attendance once a month. Although the amenities of the Centre were far from ideal, good work has been carried out therein and attendance has been satisfactory. Total attendance of children throughout the year was 739. I feel that too much praise cannot be given to those ladies who give so much of their spare time in helping with this work. Diphtheria and other immunisations were also carried out at the Clinic.

(b) Orthopaedic Clinic.—Sessions have been held twice monthly and have been staffed by nurses from the Wingfield Morris Hospital.

(c) Chest Clinic.—This self-contained unit, complete with X-ray, continues to do very good work. It is held once a week at Buckingham Hospital, and is attended by the Chest Physician.

5. Hospitals.

The following hospitals have received cases from this area :

1. Buckingham Hospital.
2. Aylesbury Isolation Hospital (Infectious cases).
3. Slade Hospital, Oxford.
4. Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford.
5. Wingfield-Morris Hospital, Oxford.
6. Creaton Sanatorium.
7. Royal Bucks.
8. Tindal Hospital.

6. Domestic Help Service.

This service, instituted under the National Health Service Act, is administered by the County Council. During the year 69 cases were assisted. There are now three Domestic Help Organisers covering the North Bucks Area.

C. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. Water.

The Supply was maintained satisfactorily throughout the year and pressures in the Gawcott Area were improved.

Owing to increasing demands, proposals are going forward to supplement supplies by the sinking of new boreholes between Buckingham and Gawcott.

The Council resolved not to proceed with the scheme to buy bulk supplies from the Bucks. Water Board, having regard to the cost involved.

The Domestic Metering of supplies would seem to be one method of restricting waste and I feel that in the future this method must receive consideration if our National Water Resources continue to be depleted at the present rate. More attention could be paid by Industrial Users to the re-use of water which all too often is discharged to waste after use for cooling purposes.

Average daily consumption was 43.59 gallons per head of the population.

The total amount of water consumed during the year in Buckingham and Gawcott was 75,532,600 gallons.

No serious breakdown of plant or machinery occurred.

Peak consumption was 233,500 gallons per day on the 12th September. Metered supplies accounted for 40,793 gallons per day.

16 bacteriological examinations were made on the raw water, all were satisfactory.

Chemical Analysis of Public Water

	Parts per 100,000	Grains per Gallon
Total solids (dried at 180°C.)	48.0	33.6
Combined Chlorine (Cl)	2.2	1.5
Equivalent to Sodium Chloride (NcCl) ..	3.6	2.5
Nitric nitrogen (Nitrates)	0.04	0.03
Nitrous nitrogen (Nitrates)	Nil	Nil
Ammoniacal nitrogen	Nil	Nil
Albuminoid nitrogen	0.0010	0.0007
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27FC	0.003	0.002
Lead or Copper	Nil	Nil
Temporary hardness (equivalent to Ca Co3) ..	26.5	18.6
Permanent hardness (equivalent to Ca Co3) ..	8.0	5.6
Total hardness (equivalent to Ca Co3)	34.5	24.2

2. Sewage Disposal.

The extension to the Disposal Works at Bourton was brought into operation in the Autumn, and together with the new Pumping Station due for completion early in 1965 means that the Town and Maids Moreton will have an efficient and modern system.

A proportion of the cost will be borne by the Rural District Council as beneficiaries under the scheme.

The Gawcott Works continue to serve that part of the Borough though considerably overloaded.

A Scheme is being prepared for improvements to this plant.

3. Refuse Disposal.

Refuse is collected weekly throughout the area.

Complaints regarding refuse collection are few and infrequent.

Refuse is disposed of by the controlled tipping method. One tip is used at Gawcott and a tip at Stratford Road, Buckingham is in operation. The latter site should provide tipping space for the town for a considerable number of years.

4. Swimming Pool.

The Pool continued to be well patronised during the Summer season.

Season ticket sales produced	£146	13	0
Gates receipts produced	£635	9	8
Refreshments sold amounted to	£277	5	5

The Schools contributed £144 13 4 for the use of the pool by local schools for swimming instruction.

The pool water was at all times satisfactory.

Six children's boats were let for hire during the Summer on part of the river adjoining the Swimming Pool. They proved a popular innovation and produced £22 3 11 in hire charges.

5. Factories.

No matters calling for special attention have been reported.

Factory extensions are in hand at Messrs. E. & F. Richardson's and also Messrs. Leslie Hartridge Ltd.

51 outworkers were notified to the Council during 1964.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963.

71 premises applied for registration under the Act and 48 inspections were carried out during the year.

The number of persons employed at registered premises was : Males 310 ; Females 161.

Part I of the Factories Act, 1937

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authorities	5	12	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	29	43	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	7	16	4	—
Total	41	71	4	—

6. Public Mortuary.

The Public Mortuary, situated in this Council's yard, continued to serve the needs of the Borough and the Rural District.

D. Housing.

20 new Council Houses were completed during the year and 15 Private Houses.

E. Annual Report of Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.

I have pleasure in presenting a brief report on the principal activities of the Public Health Department during 1964.

Nuisances, Contravention of Bye-Laws, etc.

Complaints received and investigated	781
Nuisances, etc., found without complaint	22
Nuisances, etc., abated	473
Statutory Notices served under the Public Health Acts	Nil
Informal Notices served under the Public Health Acts	83
Prosecutions	Nil

Houses and Premises Inspected.

The total number of inspections under the Public Health Acts were as follows :—

Dairies and Cowsheds	17
Bakehouses	22
Butchers' Shops	140
Slaughter Houses	115
Foodshops	62
Visits under the Tuberculosis Order	—
Infected house visits (excluding Tuberculosis cases) ...	—
Dwelling houses	421

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	241	...	1	945	438	...
Number inspected	241	...	1	945	438	...
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci Whole Carcases condemned		...	...	1	...	...
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	16	...	...	15	12	...
% of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	6.6	...	...	1.5	2.6	...
Tuberculosis only. Whole Carcases condemned	...	...	...	...	...	...
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	...	...	...	...	2	...
% of inspected affected with Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cysticercosis. Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	...	...	...	...	...	...
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	...	...	...	...	...	...
Generalised and totally condemned	...	...	...	...	...	

72 Articles of other foods were condemned and destroyed during the year.

42 inspections were made in connection with the spread of Typhoid Fever, at the request of the Ministry of Health.

Close attention has been paid to food premises, having regard to the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955-56.

The number of premises affected by the regulations being 83 and falling into the following categories :—

Cafes and Restaurants	8
Public Houses	16
Stalls	5
Canteens	15
Food Shops	35
Dairies	3

The number of premises registered under Section 6 of the Food and Drugs Act is 22, and all such premises are regularly inspected.

No clean food campaigns have been sponsored during the period.

All food premises have been supplied with extraets from the Food Hygiene Regulations.

PETROLEUM (CONSOLIDATION) ACT, 1928.

Licences issued for the storage of Petroleum Spirit	34
Inspection of Petroleum Stores	46

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ORDER, 1919.
RODENT INFESTATION ORDER, 1943.

Work under this heading has continued to oecupy a large amount of time, and much good work has been done in this direction throughout the year. The following is a brief summary of the work carried out :—

Number of complaints received	25
Number of premises treated for rats	18
Number of premises treated for mice	6
Estimated number of rats destroyed	30
Actual rats' bodies found	—
Visits for Inspection and Survey	40
Visits for Baiting and Extermination	50

RENNIE TAYLOR,

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.

F. Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases

1. General.

The year was free from epidemics.

2. Number of Notified Cases of Infectious Disease.

	1964	1963
Measles	2	34
Dysentery	0	1
Whooping Cough	5	1

3. Cancer.

There were 8 deaths from this disease during the year. Two were due to cancer of the lung.

4. Tuberculosis.

Two new cases were notified, but there were no deaths.

D. H. WALDRON,

Medical Officer of Health.

E. N. Hillier & Sons Ltd.,
Printers,
Buckingham.